

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is dimly lit, with various types of coral visible, including branching and table corals. The colors are muted, with browns, greys, and some hints of purple and orange. The text is overlaid on this background.

United States Deep Coral Research

Who: 20 people returned the questionnaire

Representing: Universities

NOAA

USGS

State agencies

NGOs

20:00:00:00

The background of the slide is a dark, underwater photograph showing various types of deep-sea coral, including branching and fan-like structures, in shades of purple, blue, and white.

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Primary Locations of Activity:

1. New England shelf and slope, mostly gorgonians
2. Southeastern US shelf and slope,
mostly hard coral bioherms
3. Gulf of Mexico, mostly hard coral bioherms
4. Alaska, mostly gorgonians
5. Oregon, mostly gorgonians

26:00:00:00



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Research Foci:

1. Ecology of *Oculina* and other hard coral reefs
2. Reefs and coral beds as habitat for fish and invertebrates
3. Deep coral genetics
4. Reproductive ecology of corals
5. MPAs and deep coral habitats
6. Geological mapping of coral habitat
7. Habitat mapping and community characterization of coral areas
8. Database development for seamount corals
9. Database development for continental shelf and slope corals

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a coral reef. The coral appears as a complex, branching network of brown and tan structures against a lighter, sandy or white background. The lighting is somewhat dim, giving the image a slightly grainy, underwater feel.

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Methods:

1. ROVs and submersibles
expensive and available occasionally
2. Scuba where corals are found in shallow water
3. Diverse lab equipment
4. Lab facilities for maintaining living specimens
5. Mapping capabilities from USGS



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Future Directions:

Are as Diverse as the array of investigators

Emphasis on mapping and community ecology
including as habitat for fish

Other topics include genetics, reproductive
morphology and ecology, and database
management

New workers will undoubtedly look at new areas

And lastly, we need to map historical coral data

U.S. Soft Coral Distributions - ME to VA

